



**SUMMARIZED MINUTES
CITY OF SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION
THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008
KIVA CONFERENCE ROOM – CITY HALL
3939 N. DRINKWATER BOULEVARD
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair McCall called the study session of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission to order at 5:28 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Kelly McCall, Vice-Chair
William Howard, Commissioner
Donald Maxwell, Commissioner
Howard Sukenic, Commissioner
Josh Weiss, Commissioner

ABSENT: Brian Davis, Chair
Mark Gilliland, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT: Mary O'Connor, Transportation General Manager
Dave Meinhart, Transportation Planning and Transit Director
Rose Arballo, Transportation Commission Coordinator
Reed Kempton, Senior Transportation Planner

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Miller

1. **Staffing Updates**

Ms. O'Connor announced that Amy Foerster no longer worked for the City of Scottsdale.

The City is in the process of interviewing candidates to fill the Principal Trails Planner position and the Public Outreach Manager position.

2. **Review of Tonight's Regular Meeting Agenda:**

- Transportation Master Plan Implementation

Mr. Meinhart said a presentation will be made on transit improvements and the projected costs associated with them. Additionally, there will be a discussion on how to possibly bridge the gap the estimated costs for improvements versus the known revenues.

- Transportation Operating Budget Review

Ms. O'Connor presented a brief summary of the budget. It carries forward the same budgeted neighborhood circulator expansion that was programmed for the current fiscal year, but was deferred. Budget increases come primarily from transit service contracts, which are not controllable. Controllable costs were pared down where possible. The largest expense is for RPTA fixed-route costs, which are shared with the cities of Tempe and Phoenix. The trolleys and neighborhood circulators are directly contracted with the operator.

Mr. Meinhart noted that approximately 70% of Dial-A-Ride costs are funded through Proposition 400, resulting in a relatively small budget item.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Howard, Mr. Meinhart explained that the City Council has approved employee benefits, but has not deliberated on the employee market adjustments, which are annual modifications to salary ranges. Employees are eligible for performance-based increases as well, if they are not at the top of their range. The budget number is a combination of cost-of-living adjustments, plus an assumption of what might happen in terms of raises.

Commissioner Howard inquired about how the budget accounted for the accelerated cost of fuel. Mr. Meinhart responded that it is built in largely, because most of the fuel is purchased through long-term contracts.

Ms. O'Connor said several transportation funds in the State budget are potentially on the line. Some of that funding could be shifted to cover shortfalls in other areas. Scottsdale is not a significant user of General Fund revenues, with the exception of the trails program, which could be affected by hits to the State shared-revenue funds. She noted that the aviation program operates off of its own enterprise fund, and receives a significant amount of funding from Federal grants.

- Regional Paratransit Study Update

In response to Commissioner Howard, Mr. Meinhart reported that Valley Metro has held five stakeholder meetings to obtain feedback from users of the system. Many of the issues related to governance still need to be worked out. All of the recommendations in the report will go through additional input by the member agencies and technical staff.

- Cab Connection Program Update

Ms. O'Connor explained that the Cab Connection program started as a pilot program, and has been very popular since its inception. A City audit was conducted to look at the parameters and to determine if the process could be further automated.

Cab Connection provides an alternative for those who do not qualify for ADA paratransit service, which is Federally required. It is not a replacement for it, since it does not meet the requirements for people with disabilities. Scottsdale has been a leader in doing this type of program. It serves as a supplement in areas where there is no requirement that Dial-A-Ride service be provided.

Ms. O'Connor noted that the Commission was not obligated to take action this evening on this item. It is being presented in conjunction with the regional paratransit study update, because of its relation to it.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Vice Chair McCall adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

A/V Tronics, Inc.

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